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# **PAYT with prepaid bags in Argentona Catalonia (Spain)**

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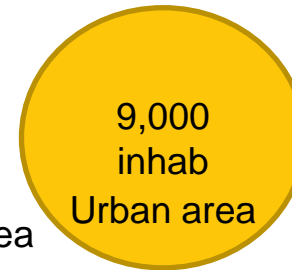
23<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Thematic Seminar 3

“Innovative Models for Waste Generation Fees”

**Municipality:**  
**Argentona/Catalonia/Spain**  
 12.000 inhabitants in two areas:

  
 3,000 inhab  
 Periurban area

  
 9,000 inhab  
 Urban area

From 2004 Door to Door system + containers “relief” zone (named “emergency zone”)



Considering the disposal tax existing in Catalonia, the DtD system was not efficient enough: Separate collection rate was 53% < 60%



The “emergency” area with containers was overused

## 2 main objectives

Reduce the total waste generation:  
**Prevention**



**Fair tax** system for citizens & commercial activities



- Timescale

**2010** First PAYT system: Fix part + Variable part (Prepaid bags)

for residual & light packaging, for citizens of the centre & commercial activities

**2012** Modification and adjustment: Fix part included a pack of bags + Variable

**2013** Elimination of the light packaging bags for citizens

**2016** Extension to the periurban area



- Resources needed

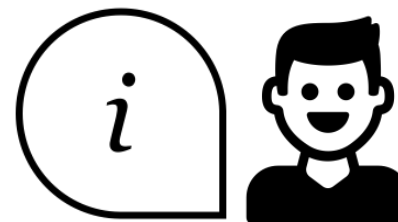
Prepaid standard bags for residual waste (red) and light packaging (yellow)

Inventory of houses and commercial activities

Bins for organic waste from commercials

Communication campaign & information agent

Delivering system



- Stakeholders involved



Citizens and their associations

Commercial activities (as waste producers and bags providers)



# Evidence of success:

- Results achieved

	2008		2018
Municipal waste generation kg/inhab/day	1,67		1,47
Separate collection rate (%)	52,8%		87,6%

- Stakeholders acceptance

The system has been well accepted in the municipality

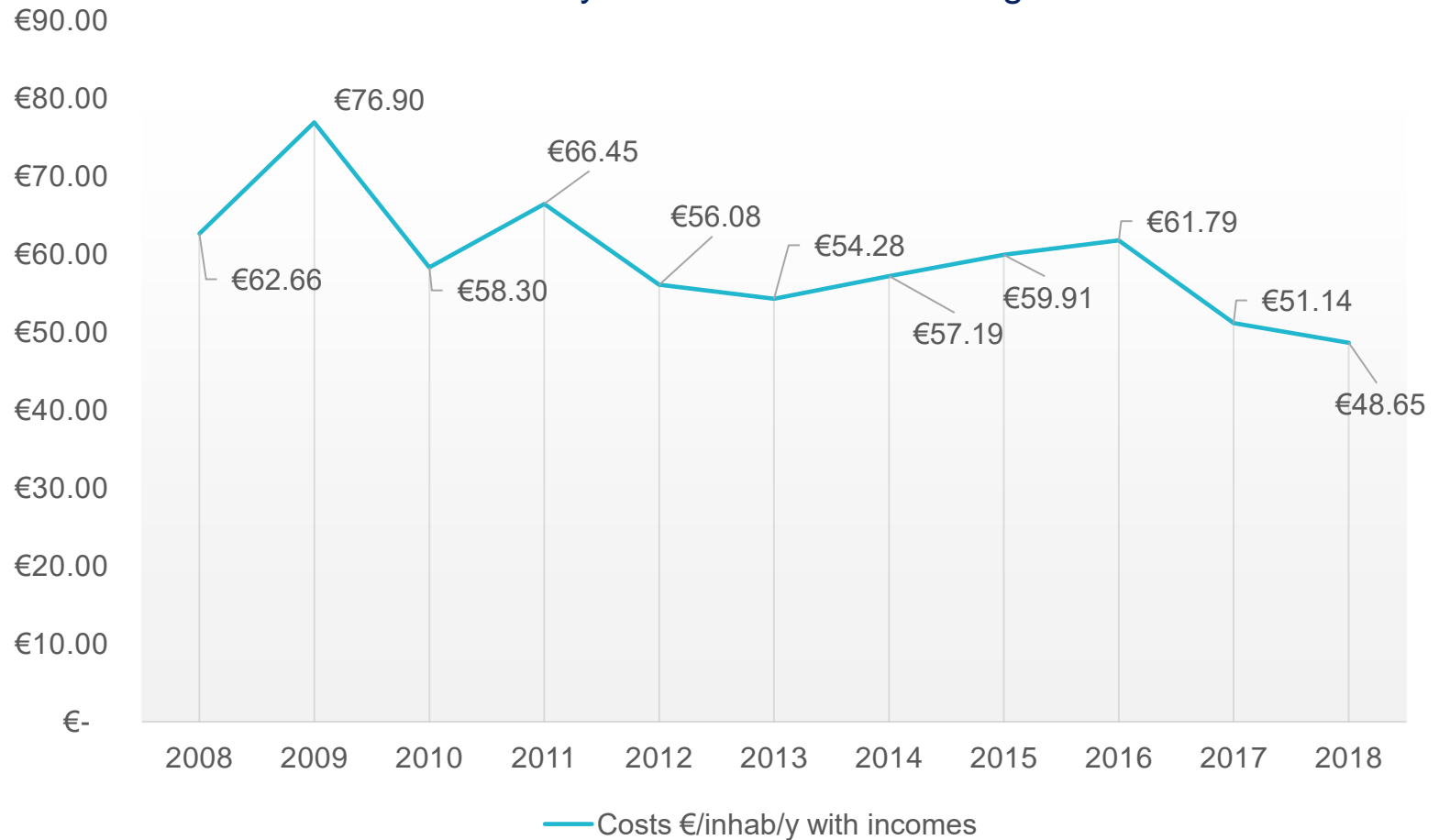
Citizens are happy with a fair system

Commercial activities are more involved in the municipality



# Costs:

Reduction by **22 %** of the total average cost



Costs=collection+treatment+landfill tax; Incomes= EPR refund+landfill tax refund+ materials selling+ taxed standard bags selling+grants

# Lessons learned:

- Key success factors

Low technology = simplicity, available for everybody

Commercial activities involvement

Permanent information personnel

- Negative aspects

Waste tourism

*It decreased when the system expanded to the whole municipality*

Delivering system needed

*Easier when a pack of bags was included in the fix part of the tax*

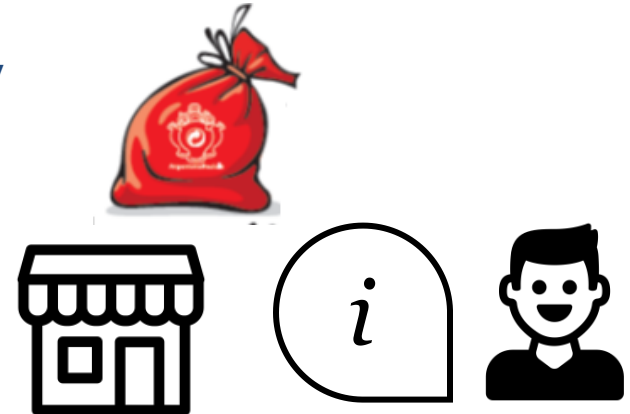
*The civic amenity site might be a delivering point*

- Challenges

Tax calculation considering prevention effect and variable part

Regulation of the use of the street litter bins as if they were containers

Punishment system for infractions



## Contact details:

### Waste Agency of Catalonia

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### Argentona municipality

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## More information:

### Video of the Argentona and Vilablareix cases

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5sh5s7yoCA&list=PLWQMeO43vsufNy7r5uPypF10LJJS3rWDw&index=3>

### PAYT Guide

[http://residus.gencat.cat/web/.content/home/lagencia/publicacions/prevencio/guia\\_pxg\\_en.pdf](http://residus.gencat.cat/web/.content/home/lagencia/publicacions/prevencio/guia_pxg_en.pdf)



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# Thank you!

Questions welcome



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